

## Routes to tour in Germany

# The Harz and Heath Route



German roads will get you there — to areas at times so attractive that one route leads to the next, from the Harz mountains to the Lüneburg Heath, say. Maybe you should take a look at both. The Harz, northernmost part of the Mittelgebirge range, is holiday country all the year round. In summer for hikers, in winter for skiers in their tens of thousands. Tour from the hill resorts of Osterode, Clausthal-Zellerfeld or Bad Harzburg or from the 1,000-

year-old town of Goslar. The Heath extends from Celle, with its town centre of half-timbered houses unscathed by the war and the oldest theatre in Germany, to Lüneburg, also 1,000 years old. It boasts wide expanses of flat countryside, purple heather and herds of local curly-horned sheep.

Visit Germany and let the Harz and Heath Route be your guide.



- 1 Brunswick
- 2 An old Lüneburg farmhouse
- 3 The Harz
- 4 Göttingen

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS  
Beethovenstrasse 55, D-5000 Köln



# The German Tribune

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## Euro integration: Bonn hopes in the balance

Crucial days lie ahead, for the EEC in general and Bonn's European policymakers in particular. This became clear after the confidential talks by Common Market foreign ministers at Munich Castle, near Bonn.

An entire range of further soundings need taking to show whether the Bonn hopes the new Bonn government of headway on European integration during its chairmanship of the EEC Council of Ministers can still be fulfilled.

Otherwise Chancellor Kohl might all have to draw up a disappointing bill - balance-sheet when Germany hands over to Greece at the EEC at the end of June.

Bonn's policy is admittedly unclear still lacks direction, especially in the difficult terrain of European Community finances.

But Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher can hardly be held responsible for the recent events and their control that have worsened.

The first is Mrs Thatcher's decision to go the polls on 9 June. This threatens to jeopardise the Stuttgart EEC summit, expected by Bonn to be the climax of Germany's term in the chair.

If Mrs Thatcher feels unable to attend in person, the summit's value will well be reduced.

Reflections, of course, are almost always being held somewhere or other in the EEC, but nowhere is a general election and its outcome of such overriding significance for Europe's prospects as Britain.

Economic and agricultural policies become the focal point of debate and the yardstick by which the success of the summit will be judged.

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THE next edition of THE GERMAN TRIBUNE will appear on 5 June.

Genscher-Colombo European integration plan to be tabled at EEC summit — page 2

munity Finance Ministers seem sure to approve is a gesture of European solidarity.

It also shows yet again how far apart the economies of major Common Market countries are drifting in the wake of France's economic experiments.

As for agricultural finances, it was unclear at the time of writing whether French farmers would make good their threat of closing the borders for farm imports.

If they did, it would coincide with the talks between EEC Agriculture Ministers in Brussels on the new prices and between Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand in Paris for consultations.

A reform of Common Market finances is growing increasingly urgent. The EEC budget estimates for 1984 submitted by the European Commission show how little leeway remains.

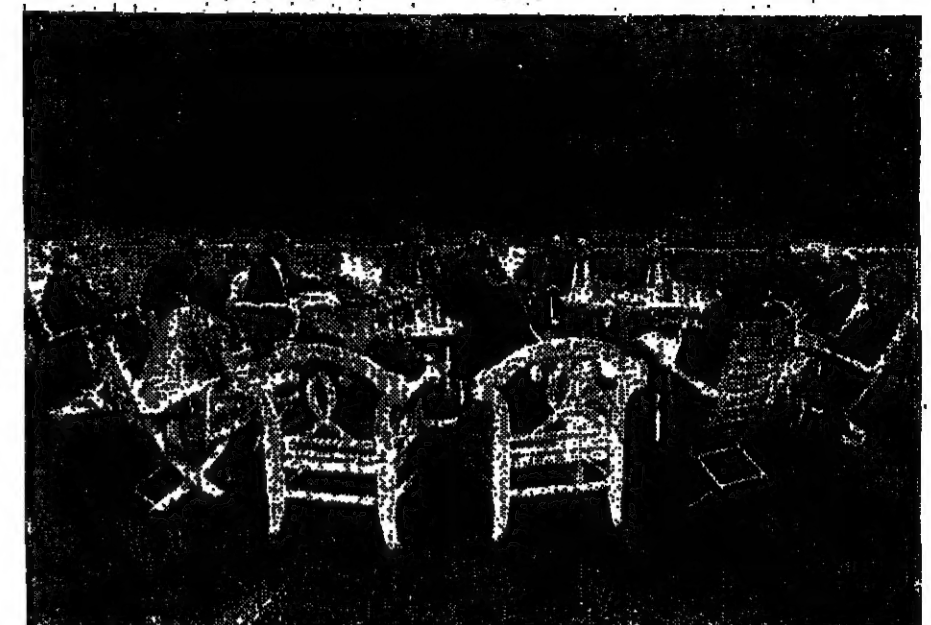
Pressure is exerted by farm price increases, by bumper agricultural surpluses and by the decline in world market prices.

And that is not even to mention the cost of the EEC's southward enlargement, which will impose a heavy burden on the Common Market's finances in the medium term.

So the European Community's financial problems come increasingly to the fore at the intensive talks held in Gynmich Castle.

They seem steadily more likely to become the focal point of debate and the yardstick by which the success of the summit will be judged.

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A breath of summer air... EEC foreign ministers get away from the conference tables at Gynmich Castle, near Bonn, where they held talks this month. (Photo: Sven Simon)

## Andropov and missiles: was he talking hot air after all?

Mr Andropov has now caused doubts about how serious the Soviet Union is about its disarmament proposals.

The West initially thought a step in the right direction had been taken when he accepted US demands for warheads and not just missiles to be counted at the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles.

But the Soviet leader has since made an additional explanation that places a major damper on hopes of genuine Soviet readiness to reduce Russia's modern missile potential.

Warhead comparisons, he now says, naturally do not mean any reduction in the number of carrier vehicles.

The Soviet Union aims to retain at

least 162 SS-20 systems in European Russia, which is the number maintained by Britain and France.

Preparations are under way to expand the number of missile systems, at present 108, aimed at China and Japan from Soviet Asia.

The 162 SS-20s Mr Andropov says Russia needs whatever happens to ensure Soviet security will thus be capable of covering a good 500 targets in Europe.

The Soviet Union is keen to retain this potential without allowing the Nato countries in Western Europe at which it is aimed to establish a missile potential of their own.

It does so even though the SS-20 cannot be compared with the outdated British and French strategic systems, which have only single warheads, are mainly on board nuclear submarines and are not under Nato command either.

Does the Soviet offer perhaps mean that Moscow might be prepared to modify its multiple-warhead SS-20s and fit the 162 systems with single warheads instead?

What will then be done to the others? Will these mobile missiles merely be relocated somewhere near railway lines (like all the rest)? Will even more be based in Asia?

The Soviet Union is reluctant to answer these queries and contents itself with confusing public opinion, long overtaxed, in the West with all manner of offers.

Is the Soviet propaganda objective to create confusion as part of a campaign to wear down public opinion, as Free Democrat Jürgen Möllemann seems to think?

Scepticism is bound to increase in the wake of the latest Soviet statements, and all Soviet disarmament and arms li-

Continued on page 2



CANADIAN GOVERNOR-GENERAL Edward Schreyer (left) and Bonn President Karl Carstens in Bonn. It is the first time that a Canadian head of state has visited the Federal Republic while holding office. Schreyer, who is accompanied by his wife, is also visiting West Berlin and some of the Federal States. (Photo: Sven Simon)



## WORLD AFFAIRS

## Genscher-Colombo European integration plan to be tabled at EEC summit

A "European Act" has been drawn up for approval at the Stuttgart summit meeting of EEC leaders.

It has been put together on the initiative of Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his Italian counterpart Emilio Colombo.

As a solemn declaration on European Union the document would say Herr Genscher, institutionalizes foreign policy cooperation.

The EEC and the EPC, (European Political Cooperation) two pillars of integration in Western Europe, would be linked. Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl favours the idea.

Whether the declaration will be acclaimed by all member-countries in another matter. Minister of State Alois Mories, whose expertise has been a great help to Herr Genscher at this tricky level of diplomacy, is only moderately optimistic.

The Germans and Italians are dealing with partners whose historical development has been individual and independent, but they cannot close their eyes to the need for agreement in the West on fundamental problems.

In particular, it remains to be seen how Britain and France, traditionally great powers, will react.

Bonn at all events does not intend to be to blame for handing over the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers at the end of June with an idea for integration that has failed.

Too much prestige, including the personal prestige of Herr Genscher, has been invested in the project for Bonn to risk being held responsible.

In the 1970s EPC, the European Political Cooperation agreement, produced various declarations on the Middle East, Namibia and Cambodia. Since

1980 unanimity has also been shown in resolutions on Afghanistan and Poland. EPC was agreed on 13 years ago to try and unify EEC views on foreign policy issues.

The EPC gatherings have also issued statements on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, on UN disarmament bids, on nuclear non-proliferation and on various Third World problems.

Security policy cooperation within the EPC framework is strictly political. Military matters are left to Nato.

Herr Genscher told the European Assembly in Strasbourg last month that his "European Act" was in the pipeline. "I shall not be appearing before this Parliament," he told Euro-MPs, "with a joint effort by the Council of Ministers that does not merit being termed a step toward European Union."

He feels a return to majority decisions in the Council of Ministers is essential if it is to be more effective and capable of action.

If he were to gain approval of majority voting he could be sure of a majority in favour of the German-Italian proposals. Mr Pym and M. Cheysson, his British and French opposite numbers, would no longer be in a position to prevent them from being approved.

Otherwise they might be able to do so on the basis of the consensus principle, in effect a right of veto, that has prevailed since 1966.

It is hard to say whether they will veto the Genscher-Colombo Plan because of disadvantages it might cause to their national policies.

The possibility can certainly not be ruled out, arguably as a sop to anti-Europeans back home.

Bonn is wondering how the European Act might still be taken over the sticks. Britain and France could possibly be agreed to hold dissenting views in the way that France was in 1966 in Luxembourg when the other five EEC countries went over to majority voting.

The second obstacle the declaration has yet to clear is the extension of powers delegated to the European Parliament as envisaged by Herr Genscher and Signor Colombo.

The European Assembly is in future to be given a hearing in its watchdog role, on major international agreements and in connection with prospective new members. If the European Act is approved it could be renewed by the European Parliament five years after it is signed.

It is very doubtful whether the transfer of such powers to the European Assembly would meet with the approval of all 10 Common Market countries (soon to become a round dozen when Spain and Portugal join the EEC).

Just before EEC Foreign Ministers met in Gynmich, near Bonn, Herr Genscher outlined in detail what he felt German policy on Europe should be at Gynmich and Stuttgart.

Within Europe, he said, the aim must be to press ahead with integration toward European Union. Externally, Europe must be guided by the Western community of values.

Comprehensible, though, this approach might sound, it is extremely difficult to arrive at a consensus amount-

ing to more than mere lip service on major hot spots in world affairs.

An example constantly cited is the Venice resolution on the Middle East approved by the European Council on 12 June 1980.

In it the nine member-states (as they then were) emphasised that traditional ties with the Middle East made them feel obliged to play a special role and take specific action for the sake of peace.

Then came a section in which the right to security of all states in the region, including Israel, was reaffirmed, followed by a call for justice for all peoples, including recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Express mention was made of the PLO, which must be allowed to take part in negotiations.

This resolution was in keeping with British, French and Italian intentions, whereas it proved to Germany's disadvantage.

Israel accused Bonn of taking part in an upgrading of the PLO, while Washington made it clear that the Venice resolution ran counter to overriding Western interests.

Britain and France, who were still powerful and, up to a point, nuclear powers, could afford to view the reactions in Washington and Jerusalem with equanimity.

Yet it remains a fact that cooperation in an institutionally consolidated free Europe (limited by the results of the Second World War to Western Europe for the time being) must be related to ties with the United States.

## Seemed simple

Thirteen years ago, when the Common Market countries embarked on foreign policy cooperation that has gone by the name of EPC, it looked for a while as though Europe could take its time.

All it needed to do was to reaffirm Europe's fundamental links with America and go ahead slowly with the intricate process of integration.

Then nuclear stalemate forced the superpowers to fight wars by proxy in, say, Vietnam and the Middle East. Both were war theatres yet ran no serious risk of escalation to world power confrontation level.

Washington, London and Moscow had just agreed to nuclear non-proliferation, and not even Mr Brezhnev's orders to the Warsaw Pact to invade Czechoslovakia in August 1968 shook their complicity.

While Washington and Moscow paved the way for talks on limiting strategic arms, Britain, Ireland, Denmark and, initially, Norway agreed to EEC membership terms in Western Europe.

In Germany the Social and Free Democratic coalition in Bonn was keen to come to terms with Moscow and Warsaw, and at times it was more intent on ties with the East Bloc than with the West.

At times there was an impression that Europe was in the throes of a rebirth of

old-style nationalism, with Gaulle virulently opposing commitment in Vietnam as early as 1960s.

In Eastern Europe the pot was boiling on Poland, Czechoslovakia and Rumania, and when Pact forces were sent into Czechoslovakia to lend "fraternal assistance" de Gaulle said it was the division of Europe for Americans had been to blame.

In the summer of 1968 de Gaulle sensed an opportunity for influencing world affairs independent of the United States.

While the Johnson administration was concentrating more on Asia than on Europe, in Europe there was a trend to break loose of Washington strings seemed to be fashionable.

One might not agree with trends in world affairs heralded by President Kennedy in the early 1960s, but his call for Europe to speak with a voice as a partner of America was a constructive vote of confidence, it became apparent that it was likewise hard to deny.

President de Gaulle the process of integration in Western Europe, although special wishes and German politicians may have played a part.

President de Gaulle's resignation in April 1969 certainly made it possible to get on well with the European integration.

At the December 1969 summit, where EPC first took shape, Pompidou of France and Pompidou of France agreed to a principle to enlargement of the Common Market and further integration.

The establishment of an Economic and Monetary Union by 1980 was suggested.

In spring 1973 US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, having declared the Year of Europe, proposed a new Charter.

This proposal failed simply because of the clash, currently only too apparent, between America's global responsibilities and European regional interests.

But experience has shown the clash could pale in significance were a widespread feeling that Europe was threatened.

It implies no lack of respect for cultural and political variety of Europe, but the job is strenuous and nerve-racking. But the job is strenuous and nerve-racking.

Stolze is proud to be able to say that he has strictly observed the dividing line between his duty to inform the public on the one hand and to make propaganda on the other.

Stolze has certainly been no easy task in the face of considerable jostling from CDU and the hectic mood during election campaign early this year.

His struggle to forward political self-interest was only one aspect of the new experience to be made. Basically, Bonn is one big unknown for Stolze.

Such a situation, trivial matters can be made into a big snowball into serious problems. One handicap which Stolze perhaps did not consider when he accepted the job, for example, is the understandable reluctance to get the sack. Acting as Government Spokesman means a 14-hour working day.

Stolze, Boenisch too may find the lure of government and Chancellorship an attractive proposition.

Any estrangement which may have developed between Boenisch and the Chancellor has been eliminated.

Boenisch will be well aware of the pros and the drawbacks of his new of-

## HOME AFFAIRS

## Official Bonn Spokesman decides to quit

Diether Stolze has resigned as Bonn Government Spokesman. He has been replaced by Peter Boenisch.

Stolze was appointed last year after having been rumoured that he would quit early. Now that he is indeed

the question is: Why wasn't Boenisch chosen at the beginning. Boenisch has been regarded as the choice ever since Helmut Kohl won the Bundestag election campaign on Opposition candidate back in

1982. He could be seen every evening together with Kohl's closest circle of friends.

When Helmut Schmidt was toppled by a constructive vote of confidence, it became apparent that a new Chancellor had not yet made decisions on personnel.

Instead of Boenisch, Kohl decided to appoint Stolze, the co-publisher of *Die Zeit*. Kohl would have, undoubtedly, preferred to have a journalist familiar with the media and to get on well with the media correspondents there.

But it soon became clear why he had chosen Stolze.

In a time in which an austerity programme had to be pushed through and the economy reformed, Kohl needed a man with a sound knowledge of economic matters and further integration.

Stolze soon gained access to the circle of advisers. He could not complain about the lack of collaboration in Bonn and Kohl's words of farewell, which were the warm atmosphere of mutual cooperation, were sincere.

Stolze can also claim to have reaped considerable benefit from his brief stay in office.

There is no doubt that the job of Government Spokesman, always at the Chancellor's side and in the know of the moves he makes, has a fascinating appeal.

But the job is strenuous and nerve-racking. But the job is strenuous and nerve-racking.

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Stolze, Boenisch too may find the lure of government and Chancellorship an attractive proposition.

Any estrangement which may have developed between Boenisch and the Chancellor has been eliminated.

Boenisch will be well aware of the pros and the drawbacks of his new of-

fice, for he and Stolze have been close friends for a long time.

Boenisch was born in Berlin on 4 May, 1927. His mother is Russian.

After the war, he studied law and Slavonic studies for a while, before working as local and sports editor for the *Allgemeine Zeitung* in Berlin, the newspaper issued by the occupying American forces.

He then worked for *Newsweek* and the *New York Times* and by 1949 he had worked his way up to editor-in-chief of the *Schleswig-Holsteinische Tagespost*.

In 1956 he was one of the initiators of the teenager magazine *Bravo*.

In summer 1959 Boenisch joined the Springer publishing house and became editor-in-chief of the daily newspaper *Bild* in 1961.

In 1965 he also took on the editorship for the *Bild am Sonntag*.

Following a reorganisation of the Springer group he was also appointed Secretary to his new *Gesellschaft für Publizistik* (Association for Journalism).

He was recalled from his position of editor-in-chief of *Die Welt* (which he has held since 1978) in 1981.

(Bremser Nachrichten, 10 May 1983)



The latest edition... new Government Spokesman Peter Boenisch.

(Photo: Sven Simon)



Chancellor Kohl (right) explains the decision of Government Spokesman Diether Stolze (left) to resign.

(Photo: dpa)

## The top Press job makes heavy demands

And yet, irrespective of those personal circumstances, there is a more important reason for the early departures of many Government Spokesmen.

They are increasingly being forced out of their official role of interpreter of government policies into one in which they function as a scapegoat for government slip-ups.

The government policies are all right, it is claimed, it's the poor way in which they are sold which leads to political setbacks.

Bonn's Spokesmen are increasingly becoming "doormats" for the politicians, taking the blame for not being able to convince the public that an ugly-looking toad is really a tasty oyster.

Many run into difficulties when they refuse to cross the line between information, backed by tax-payer's money, and propaganda.

Chancellor Kohl himself cannot be accused of treating his Spokesman this way, but quite a few of his party friends could be.

One can only hope that Peter Boenisch has not been chosen purely on account of his reputation as a good salesman of popular press material.

Hans Peter Schütz

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 10 May 1983)

## EEC unity

Continued from page 1

Bonn's chairmanship at the EEC will be measured.

This is even more the case now that the Bonn coalition has failed to arrive at a clear attitude on proposals made by the European Commission in Brussels.

Herr Genscher set great store by the German-Italian bid to promote political development of the European Community, but the solemn declaration he envisaged has similarly declined in importance.

Eberhard Wisdorff  
(Hanseblatt, 16 May 1983)

## Disarmament

Continued from page 1

imitation initiatives forfeit credibility as a result.

How much more honest and constructive it would be if the experts were, as originally agreed, to come to terms at Geneva on the basis of reliable data.

Instead, hopes are being encouraged bit by bit in speeches and interviews that Moscow has no intention of fulfilling.

Peter Seiditz

(Kleiner Nachrichten, 14 May 1983)

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## ■ THE HITLER DIARIES

## Reporter sacked, editors resign over forgeries

The Hitler diaries are false. The German Federal Archives in Koblenz examined examples and announced within 48 hours that they are forgeries. The magazine *Stern*, which produced the documents, parts of which they have already published, have sacked a leading figure involved in the issue, reporter Gerd Heidemann, and two of the three editors-in-chief, Peter Koch and Felix Schmidt, have resigned. *Stern* has asked the state prosecutor to investigate Heidemann, who has repeatedly refused to disclose the source of the documents. *Stern* now says it doubts whether the source even exists. It also says Heidemann might have "enriched" himself through the deal, which cost the magazine somewhere between DM8m and DM10m, depending on whose estimate is taken.

The diaries of Adolf Hitler are a hoax. But now the witchhunt goes on to find out who, why and where.

In a brief statement issued by the publishers of *Stern*, Gruner & Jahr, in Hamburg, the resignation of two editors-in-chief, Peter Koch and Felix Schmidt, was announced.

The statement is signed by the chairman of Gruner & Jahr's board of managing directors, Gerd Schulte-Hillen, who it is claimed himself had a hand in the whole affair.

The Hamburg publishing house is now busy carrying out repair work on the next issue of *Stern*, calming down its angry journalists and paving the way for further "consequences".

Peter Koch had to be called back to Germany from the United States, where he was still conducting background research on the diaries together with the son of Hitler's former deputy, Rudolf Hess.

The reporter behind the affair, Gerd Heidemann, was somewhere in Bavaria.

The planned next instalment of the diaries will be replaced by the story behind their forgery. It's a case of trying to make money out of a flop.

As Henri Nannen, the publisher, points out: "We shall be trying to uncover the story behind this these forgeries, and I really mean uncover."

## The bureau that exposed a fraud

The Federal Archives in Koblenz, which has declared the alleged *Stern* Hitler diaries to be forgeries, was established in 1953.

Its job is to collect, order and scientifically evaluate records passed on from the Federal government and its departments.

The Archives was a central collecting-point for material seized by the three western Allies from the offices and departments of the Nazis during the war and handed back since.

During its first years, the Archives' main functions were to:

- Put into archives all existing material from the former Reich material found on Federal territory.

But *Stern* reporters are now wondering who is going to believe them now.

"The only thing we're going to uncover is what date it is tomorrow", they said. Up until the afternoon of 6 May the journalists seemed to be mere on-lookers.

Yet gradually it became apparent that too much work had been carried out without sufficient precautions.

Gerd Heidemann, who had offered his material to the editors-in-chief, had not apparently named the names of his sources right up until the actual publication deadline.

Herr Schulte-Hillen only discovered a name after exerting "psychological pressure" on Heidemann.

By this time, however, the millions of marks for the story had already been handed over. By evening, publisher Nannen had to admit defeat: "I feel that we have every reason to feel ashamed in front of our readers."

Nannen, who up to this time had been most restrained, still assured the public that the journalists responsible had checked the authenticity of the fake diaries as best they could.

He then drifted into the jargon of day-to-day routine as he spoke about the marketing aspects of such alleged diaries.

He pointed out that, after all, Ade-

It now seems incredible that *Stern* was threatening to print this freshly-written, Hitler volume for volume for fifteen months.

Presumably, the historians were then expected to pick up the morsels and ruminate on them.

Now's the time for questions to be asked: is it really so easy for the media to create such an event and manipulate the reading public?

Isn't the way in which German TV stations are automatically taken in by a story which is not verifiable and present discussions on the subject an open invitation to potential forgers?

The fact that for dramaturgical reasons the British right-wing historian, David Irving, was asked to take part in such a discussion must certainly have brought a smile to the faces of Germany's right-wing extremists.

- Gather material on the activities of former German Reich authorities and of the Wehrmacht.
- Look after and register the material confiscated by the Allies during the war and handed back since.

According to the rules of procedure of the Federal ministers, those records which are older than 30 years can be used for research purposes, providing the Federal government has not ordered otherwise.

This Federal body has now become the central archives institution of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The information stored in the stock-rooms are accessible both to scientists and the public.

There are more than 70 kilometres of files, 52 million metres of documentary and feature films and about 1.2 million photos.

(Mannheimer Morgen, 9 May 1983)



And when do you want Göring's books and Himmler's love letters?

nauer and Kissinger had written their memoirs, sold them for a great deal of money and allowed them to be marketed. Saturday, 7 May, then saw some heavy backtracking by both the publishing house and the editors.

"The authenticity tests conducted before the start of publication have revealed themselves to be inadequate."

None of the official statements have yet in any way explained how a magazine like *Stern* could be fooled in such a way.

Heidemann is a good reporter but he is also a controversial figure — his links to former Nazi leading lights were known not to be purely journalistic. It would seem that the *Stern* manage-

## What the hoax means for German media

An "event", both artificial and fake, became a huge issue for the media.

The grotesque thing is that most of the interest was shown in this affair after *Stern* had been forced by public opinion to carry out a belated examination into the authenticity of the alleged diaries.

What *Stern* did cannot, of course, be generalized. The editorial staff would appear to have been left in the dark most of the time, the real decisions being made higher up the scale.

The staff have asked their readers to forgive them in the hope that they will not be dragged into the incredulity. Serious thought must be given to the reasons behind the affair.

*Stern*, a million-selling "popular" magazine, is a mass medium which is not easily compared with other media. Its behaviour and its content is more dependent on successful marketing than on a positive image.

Another aspect which makes *Stern* different is its huge staff and financial resources.

It is a marvellous money-maker for the Bertelsmann group of companies, to which the *Stern* publishing house, Gruner & Jahr AG belongs.

In such an atmosphere, there is the ideal conditions for an attitude that you can buy anything that's going and find anything you want.

Very often, however, it means that you only think in terms of what you can actually see.

In the Heidemann/Hitler case, however this mood itself would not have been enough to move the millions need-

ment was subject to a variety of pressures with regard to Hitler's diaries. It had been looking for a big months. It has been plipped by other magazines on other subjects. It was, for example, often on the wheels and the *Neue Heimat* trade union.

But *Der Spiegel* was first. *Stern* also missed the surrounding the Flick group of companies.

The fact that other magazines also involved in negotiations with the Hitler documents had greater pressure to make sure they did not slip away.

Why be surprised? It is surely a "heal-

ing instinct to try and capitalise on provisions, earning for oneself and the family the maximum profit at the effort.

It used to be a matter of the fruits of forest, of venison and fish; now it is the harvest of welfare legislation. Deriv-

is much personal benefit as possible viewed as no mean attitude.

There is no difference between now and now in the way in which the state is exploited, then it is less of the recipients than of the donors.

The law has changed, and with it who enforces it. A different out-look prevails among government and court authority, pension fund and court officials.

Under people will remember what it used to be like. Claimants were viewed with mistrust. There were no free hand-

outs and no-one got anything for nothing.

Officials saw themselves as representatives of the state and their role to the extent as that of preventing ex-

haustion of welfare provisions.

War invalids had endless trouble in leading welfare departments and to certify and acknowledge disability. Hundreds of thousands of appeals were filed.

How different it is today. The men who administer welfare are no longer seen as the enemies of the state; they are the allies.

This is a change for the better but it has drawbacks: There can be no more that the burgeoning cost of the state is due in no small measure to the obliging attitude taken by those who administer it.

They are increasingly motivated by an outlook that prompts the small keeper to ask the time-honoured question: "Is it alright if it comes to a head of rejecting unwarranted claims they feel obliged to tell clients they are entitled to apply for rent rebate for concessions here and subsidies

## SOCIETY

## Changing attitudes towards social security claims

a truism: to say that more and more people are milking the welfare state, but is it really true?

The idea of social security scroungers is widespread that like all deeply-held ideas it merits closer scrutiny.

People really keener to wring a deutschemark out of the welfare state than they were in years gone by?

There were countless refugees victims of wartime bombing who were overgenerous in assessing the of their loss with a view to getting in compensation.

Germany's former Eastern territories have had their fair share of estates farms with first-rate arable land pastures.

There were not anywhere near as many people in poor health were in the past.

And qualify for a small pension. That was how it was then and there is no reason to expect it to be much different now.

Only plebeian-the-sky idealists could expect anything else to be the case.

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Let doubters ask friends and relations. Nearly everyone knows of an instance in which welfare provisions were virtually thrust upon people.

Where earnings limits or means tests apply, they are generously overridden.

The key to abuse of the welfare state is in the offices from which it is administered where a compliant, benevolent, help-yourself attitude is apparent.

What other explanation is there to account for phenomena such as the fact that there are far more people officially acknowledged as disabled now than there were after the war?

How else is one to account for the constant increase in the number of disability pensions? Last year one new pensioner in two retired early on health grounds.

The general public's bill of health has certainly not undergone a drastic decline.

Pension funds, doctors and welfare legislation are no longer as strict as they used to be in authorising a disability pension.

Wherever you look there seems to be a well-meaning collusion by the general public and welfare-state officials to the welfare state's financial detriment.

The main consideration is no longer how to rule out unwarranted claims but how to lend a helping hand. Those who prefer, for reasons of pride or an uneasy conscience, not to make use of welfare provisions are viewed as either snobs or fools.

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Wherever you look there seems to be a well-meaning collusion by the general public and welfare-state officials to the welfare state's financial detriment.

Officials still labour under the delusion that there are several million people entitled to social security facilities who for one reason or another fail to claim.

The fact is that there is no-one left to protect the welfare state from exploitation. Everyone takes a dip and generously hands out what isn't his to share, let alone claim.

Outsiders such as lawyers, doctors and the trade unions join in the fray, supplying expertise and legal arguments for entitlement. Why not, after all?

No-one wants to see a return to the authoritarian state of old, when claimants were treated like beggars. The obliging attitude taken by civil servants nowadays is just as it should be.

They are absolutely right in not just signing rejection slips but also telling people what their rights are.

But the other side of the coin must not be forgotten. The public coffers are open to all and there is no-one left to protect them from abuse.

How are we to resolve the dilemma and retain the "civil", civil servant while stemming the tide of financial claims on the welfare state?

Welfare legislation seems the only answer. It at least must be made a little less obliging. Welfare entitlement must be specified; administrative leeway must be limited.

There must be no compunction in introducing means tests and income levels above which entitlement ceases.

Let civil servants by all means remain civil but they must be more strictly regulated in their opportunities of being overgenerous with money that isn't theirs to hand out without let or hindrance.

Arno Surminski  
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 May 1983)

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## Social security payments

Percentage of Germans living principally off pensions, dole or other hand outs.

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## It's harder for girls to find apprenticeships

Girls who apply for apprenticeships are rejected twice as often as boys, says the Federal Labour Office in Nuremberg, which has launched an advertising campaign to persuade employers to give more school-leavers a chance.

The advertisements feature photographs of youngsters who have failed so far in their bid to find an employer who will hire them for a two- or three-year term as an apprentice.

The Nuremberg authority notes, in connection with the campaign that more girls are sent rejection slips despite the fact that they are usually better prepared for the apprenticeship they have in mind.

This claim is made on the basis of research by Hermine Kraft and Gerhard Engelbrecht, who work for a research unit attached to the Nuremberg authority.

As a rule, they find, girls take particularly good care to ensure they are well qualified for the job training they are interested in.

They also apply to more prospective employers than boys do and are readier to consider something other than what they originally envisaged.

Girls are more willing to accept any apprenticeships available at the labour exchange. On average they







## FINANCE

## Small town, big stakes: the heavyweights meet at Williamsburg

The one-horse town of Williamsburg, about 200 kilometres from Washington and with a population of 11,000, has never been what you could call a magnet for tourists.

But the end of this month 5,000 to 6,000 journalists from all over the world will gather for the economic summit meeting of the seven most important western industrialised nations.

Topics are the international economic and monetary problems, the fight against unemployment and protectionism and the relationship to the Third World.

Both President Reagan and Chancellor Kohl agree that the main aim will be to strengthen the already discernible recovery of the international economy.

What is needed is closer co-ordination and the Chancellor said he hopes that Williamsburg will provide "a signal of confidence and optimism".

The Minister of Economic Affairs, Count Otto-Lambdordorf, would like to see a further impetus for the "new market-economy based offensive which is unmistakably emerging, on both sides of the Atlantic".

Such hopes are not new. They have accompanied the summit meeting ever since the first one was held in 1975.

At that time, the French President, Claude d'Etiling, invited the heads of government of the USA, Britain, Japan, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany

and France to join him at the castle of Rambouillet, near Paris.

The final declaration referred to "the recovery of our economies and the reduction in the waste of human labour as a result of unemployment" as the main tasks facing the governments of these countries.

The urgency of these tasks has not lessened since that first meeting. The situation has worsened.

Today, the European Community alone has 12 million unemployed and the danger of internationally chronic economic weaknesses has still not been removed.

Critics appraisals of the summits, therefore, always return to the doubts expressed by a big West German weekly newspaper after the last economic summit in Versailles in June 1982:

"Can the pleasant-sounding words of Versailles change the world?"

Of course, they cannot. Yet the new traditional institution of annual top-level consultations has undoubtedly become an effective instrument for enabling a greater degree of joint co-ordination.

It is certainly more effective than a number of international organisations or bilateral talks between individual governments.

The fact that the government leaders must "justify" their go-it-alone activities or protectionist moves when they

meet each year may help prevent them in the first place.

In many cases, the heads of state and the government leaders did not come along to the summits empty-handed.

In 1975, for example, where efforts centred on international monetary policies and the improvement of their co-ordination, particularly between the USA and France.

In 1978 (Bonn) and 1979 (Tokyo) clear answers were given to the tough challenge of the OPEC price policy.

The summit countries not only promised to reduce their respective levels of energy consumption but also fixed maximum limits to oil imports right up until 1985.

This "anti-oil" policy was confirmed at the Venice summit in 1980.

"We must remove the existing link between economic growth and oil consumption", was the word put out by the top politicians at the summit.

Their aim was "to cut down the share of oil in our total level of energy requirements from the present level of 53 per cent to about 40 per cent by 1990."

The Federal Republic of Germany has made particular headway in this respect: the percentage share of oil in total primary energy consumption was already brought down to 44 per cent by 1982. This is the lowest level since the mid-sixties.

In the three years following the

Tokyo summit the Federal had already recoded it oil consumption by a quarter.

Since 1979, the amount of oil consumed by the western world has dropped 10 per cent.

All summits up to now marked by the problems of energy prices and attempts to come to grips with this development via political reaction.

It is certainly no coincidence that the first meeting followed the first oil shock in 1973/74 and that the determined resistance to such price increases followed the second oil shock in 1979/80.

State and government have pressed their concern at the successive vast increases in energy prices, which was in no way reflected in market conditions.

They underlined a fact of which it would seem, is now being realised by the Opec countries themselves: they have realised the limits of their power.

"The fact is that the industrial countries of the free world, including countries and the developing countries, are dependent. They must help one another to guarantee economic development and peace."

The realisation of this fact seems to be the due reward for assistance shown by the seven industrialised nations.

"Politics is like drilling a plank of wood; you need a good eye at the same time."

This classic definition by German sociologist and economist Hans-Jürgen Lauth is continued on page 7.

## THE EEC

## Farm policy remains a mess as the squabbling continues

Most people agree that the Common Agricultural Policy is over for reform. Those who are in a hurry to take action know that something must be done. But they don't know what.

There are many disturbing aspects of the EEC farm policy. Milk subsidies for the taxpayer more than a million an hour. Tons of food are destroyed to keep prices stable, yet people in other parts of the world are starving.

Compromises are accepted and changes made in other areas of policy, but not in farm policy.

There really is no alternative to the long marathon meetings in Brussels.

The EEC is at the same time a history of never-ending quarrels about its expensive agricultural policy and the accompanying political decisions.

Crises in the EEC are always marked by the same structures and symptoms.

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member too well the so-called "policy of the empty chair" practised by General de Gaulle during the mid-sixties.

National prestige was the main reason why France torpedoed the principle of majority decisions in the Council of Ministers.

They finally managed to push through their demand of a right to veto in cases where "vital national interests" are at stake (the Luxembourg compromise).

This was certainly an uneasy compromise which has dogged many European initiatives ever since.

Attempts to change the Community's labour policy, to reform the financing of the Community budget, to help the ailing steel industry, or to develop some kind of joint foreign policy have all failed due to the principle of unanimity.

The ageless dispute over a common fisheries policy would have long since been solved had it not been for the compromises in Luxembourg.

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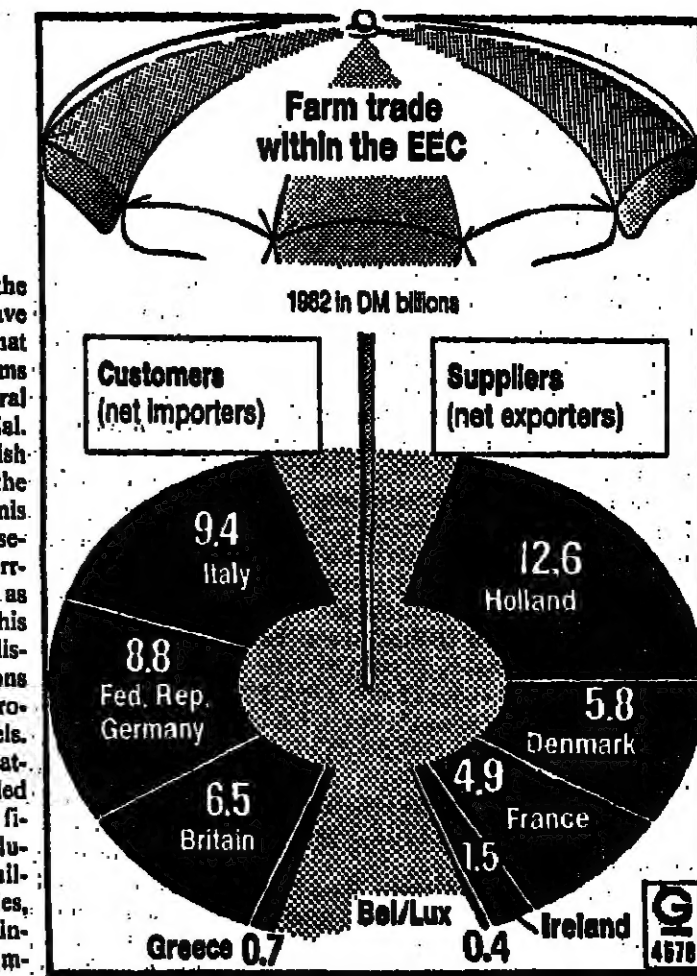
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For years, the member states have been saying that immediate reforms of the agricultural policy are essential.

Former British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Denis Healey, once tersely and dryly referred to this system as "perverse".

This triggered off dismayed reactions among the "Europeans" in Brussels.

With its complicated system of graded price guarantees, financing of surpluses and countervailing import levies, the system does indeed reveal a number of inconsistencies.

The negotiations, once referred to as a kind of poker, are usually characterised by tough wheeling and dealing.

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European policies are very often the extended arm of national domestic policies.

The minister carrying out the negotiations is under constant pressure to bring a good result back home.

Klaus von Dohnanyi felt what it was like to come back without success after he had agreed to accept the British demand for a budgetary compensation four years ago.

He got a proper hiding when he got back home and was accused of having sacrificed billions of marks.

The "devaluation" countries — for example, France — have to accept a negative import countervailing levy.

Their exports are levied by about eight per cent, for example, at the German border.

Continued on page 9

## Just what the treasury doesn't need

about the scrapping going on in West.

This dispute is not likely to be a main topic at the coming summit.

high-level meeting. Cocom, the coordinating committee for the trade, has managed to come to an arrangement which is intended for the time being.

It has agreed that the million-dollar relevance of any particular EEC Commission proposals to rescure community financing.

At home, he's been trying to save his mark he can stop debt from rising.

Now, Brussels expects him to counter a bill of exchange which asks the Federal Republic to pay a further 10 per cent or DM4bn to the EEC a year.

It will be the decisive criterion for a comparison to give an idea of the sum of money involved.

The reduction of grants for school children, which triggered off such controversy at home, dealt with a sum of DM240m.

Stoltenberg had already stated his opposition to the proposal during the German Savings Banks annual meeting a few days ago.

The EEC cannot expect to enjoy unlimited growth, said Stoltenberg, and also learn to come to terms with slow growth rates. This sounds reasonable, but it doesn't help solve the problem.

The European Community is facing a real financial problem. The next months may already see it threatened by insolvency due to the record high last year and the unfavourable development of international agricultural prices, both of which have led to substantial increases in costs.

These costs, however, are the result of the decisions made by the Council of Ministers, that is, by all ten governments.

The respective finance ministers must face up to the responsibility for the consequences of these decisions.

The Commission expects the Council of Ministers to give a clear signal by coming to a decision on the prices of agricultural products.

It will not hesitate to make further suggestions if farm expenditure is not justified by either the internal needs of the community or the maintenance of

the financial framework of the community.

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## Hopes build over increasing trade with Soviet Union

mid-seventies for political and economic reasons but is to be revived by reversing the direction of the flow of electricity.

The Federal Republic is now to become a supplier of electricity.

In view of the present discussions on energy policy in the Federal Republic this sort of speculation would seem better suited for a pub discussion than serious political consideration.

The American reports of extending natural gas supplies to Siberia belong in the same category.

There would seem to be more meat to speculations concerning the huge brown-coal fields in Kansk-Atschinsk. At least, they are known to exist.

It is also known that transporting this material would not be economical. It would have to be refined on the spot.

Talks about this with German firms have been going on for five years and it may well move up a peg on the Soviet priority list.

However, it is not likely to be tackled until the 1990s, although it is already a welcome topic for discussion.

Soviet diplomats and newspapers too are again resorting to the old stick and carrot method.

They are training their sights on the coming economic summit in Williamsburg and the deployment of American medium-range missiles.

The suggestion is made that the policy of détente led to an upswing in East-West trade, and that the aggravation of the present climate will in turn lead to a worsening of such trade relations.

However, there is general agreement that the exchange of goods began to flourish after the East Bloc had ceased to regard foreign trade as a mere stopgap to compensate for its own bottleneck situations and opened up its economy.

Up to now, there are no signs that there will be a fundamental change in this approach.

Those involved in trade with the East Bloc are therefore more concerned

about the scrapping going on in West.

This dispute is not likely to be a main topic at the coming summit.

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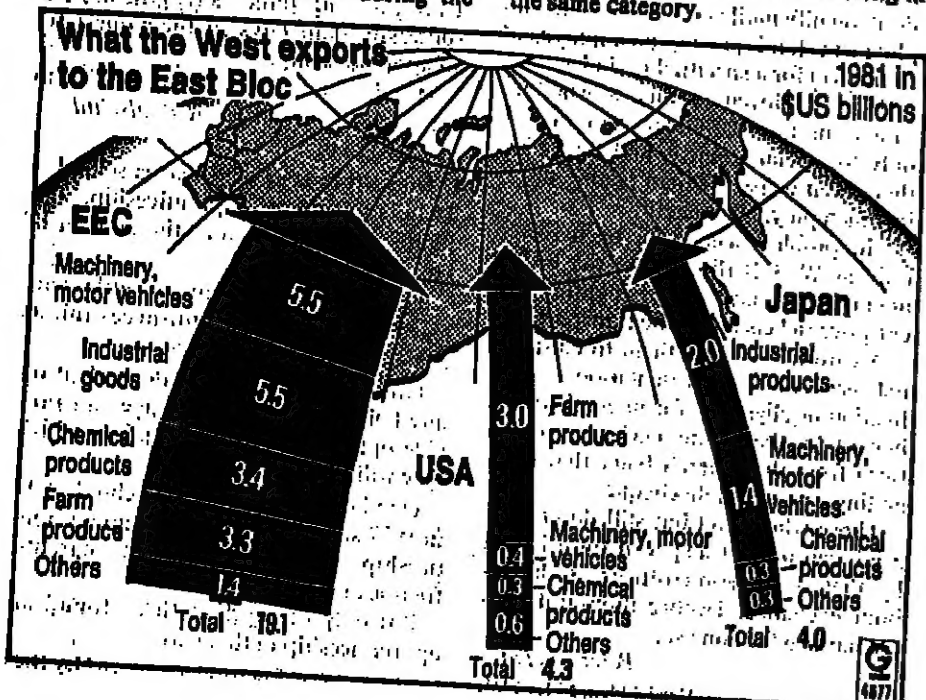
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Time is fast running out for the US and Soviet delegations at the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles in Europe.

If they fail to reach agreement the West will go ahead at the end of the year with missile modernisation plans that have been in the pipeline since the end of 1979.

The first new US missiles will then be scheduled for installation in five Western European countries, including the Federal Republic of Germany.

In December 1979 Nato gave itself four years in which to negotiate a missile agreement with the Soviet Union in Europe.

Time will soon run out, and what will happen when the first Pershing 2 missiles arrive in Germany? This is a question both supporters and opponents of missile modernisation are asking.

They all make a livelihood out of converting differences of opinion into major clashes, whereas what is needed now is to find out what views are held in common, and not where the differences lie.

This is as true of the Geneva talks as it is of the domestic missile debate in Germany.

The two sides in Geneva have not made much headway, neither on fundamental points nor on detail.

The Soviet Union wants to prevent the United States from stationing medium-range missiles in Europe yet wants to retain the right itself.

That explains why Moscow had called for the number of British and French strategic weapons to be taken as the yardstick for Soviet medium-range missiles.

The Russians want to limit not only missiles but also nuclear warheads in

## PERSPECTIVE

# Time is running out for missile negotiators

Europe, yet in such a way that the number of US strategic bombers in Europe is reduced, and not their own.

They also continue to oppose any idea of a worldwide limitation in land-based medium-range missiles, preferring to limit the talks to missiles in Europe and to retain a free hand in Asia.

All these points are unacceptable to the United States and to the West as a whole. So there are sound reasons for doubting whether the Geneva talks will achieve results.

But that would be unnecessarily pessimistic. The two sides are still talking, and their positions remain ambiguous enough to leave room for compromise.

Take the latest offer by the Soviet leader, Mr Andropov, to count not just the number of missiles but the number of warheads in any agreement.

That is certainly similar to what the West has in mind. Soviet SS-20s each have three independently targetable warheads, whereas the planned new US missiles have only a single one (as do the current British and French missiles).

"We do not want the Soviet Union to have more missiles and warheads than Nato," Mr Andropov said in an after-dinner address in honour of the visiting GDR leader, Herr Honecker.

It remains to be seen whether this new formula will be sufficient to override fundamental differences.

Is the Soviet Union prepared to agree to much more far-reaching cuts in the number of its SS-20s than has been supposed?

Might it be prepared to accept both British and French nuclear weapons and a measure of US missile modernisation? Experts are disagreed on this point.

Mr Andropov's statement certainly cannot be said to rule out a compromise. So Mr Reagan, who is otherwise quick to dismiss Soviet bids, is right in assessing this latest Soviet initiative as a positive step.

It must now be sounded out in Geneva. There is no reason for yet assuming that missile modernisation in full is absolutely inevitable.

There is no cause for abandoning the traditional consensus among established political parties in Bonn on security policy either.

The Bundestag debate on the government's policy statement undoubtedly highlighted the differences between the coalition parties and the Social Democrats.

There is a growing inclination in the SPD to oppose missile modernisation at its party conference this autumn regardless of failure to reach agreement in Geneva.

In calling for renewed consideration whether new missiles might not be based at sea rather than on land the Social Democrats are virtually scuppering the dual-track Nato resolution.

This idea was reviewed in 1979 and rejected by a majority of Nato countries, especially the Scandinavians.

Some Social Democrats are particularly harsh in their criticism of President Reagan because they hope to be able to show that the United States has not done its utmost, as Chancellor Schmidt put it last October, to come to terms with the Soviet Union.

They would then arguably find it easier to justify going back on the Nato resolution.

Yet despite their evident malaise the leaders of the SPD Bundestag Opposition are still in favour of the essentials of the Nato resolution.

Points shared on both sides of the House are readily found:

● Government, and Opposition are agreed in several respects on the Soviet arms build-up.

● "The Soviet Union," Social Democrat Horst Ehmke only recently told the Bundestag, "created the entire problem in the first place with its SS-20 missile build-up."

● Soviet offers so far are likewise agreed to have been inadequate. "They don't go far enough," says Shadow Chancellor Hans-Jochen Vogel.

● Christian and Social Democrats agree on the need to plan for and announce details of missile modernisation to pressure the Soviet Union into negotiating seriously.

The SPD would admittedly like to see the deadline for negotiations extended.

● Both are clearly committed to the Atlantic alliance. "It is not at issue as far as we are concerned," Herr Vogel has said, "and certainly not negotiable."

The SPD leaders' views are not as unambiguous as they were in Helmut Schmidt's days but they still retain

much of the consensus that has been on Bonn's foreign policy for years.

It is a consensus, and a policy, that has made the Federal Republic of Germany consistent and influential in world affairs.

These views shared must not be lost until it is absolutely agreed that agreement has grown merely and that is not yet the case.

Consensus can be premature. It will be allowed to ride small waves only. They will qualify for a full agreement only when they have proved themselves.

What if limitation of missiles were to be accomplished by missile modernisation at a level?

That could be the outcome of the informal agreement last summer by the two chief negotiators, Mr Nitze of the United States and Mr Kvitinski of the Soviet Union.

Their idea was for the Soviet Union to scrap or withdraw all but 12 SS-20s (with three warheads each) and the West installed 75 Cruise missiles (with four missiles each) in Europe.

Horst Ehmke hinted in his speech that the Social Democrats were well-disposed toward this idea, but there really is no question of a joint declaration and the major opposition jointly backing some such proposal.

A successful outcome at the SPD conference for the main political consensus in the Federal Republic of Germany.

This consensus has already been a backslide. If it were to give way to a deep political rift extending much further than the missile debate.

No-one can be interested in a clash, certainly not the coalition, who cannot be keen on a domestic dispute.

The Social Democrats are to be pitied. They have a prospect either of missile modernisation they do not want or of the political outcome they do not want.

Bonn's allies cannot want to see a West Germany rent by strife would hardly be the case.

Can the Soviet Union expect to reap long-term rewards from a missile modernisation? Surely a harder line in East-West would be more likely to ensure peace.

There is no guarantee of peace. America and Russia will continue on a reasonable compromise. It will be no justification of a compromise any price either.

Nato cannot shirk the consequences of its resolutions if it is to retain its credibility, but failure to compromise would be a costly mistake.

This is a point to be borne in mind both at the Geneva talks and in the domestic debate.

The stationing of non-strategic new missiles in Western Europe means the end of political East-West ties not at home.

It will continue to be a matter of course that the threat of negotiation with the Soviet Union, this may have grown, is not broken.

Mr Andropov's offer leads one to assume that Moscow would not want that happen either.

And even after the missile modernisation (or not) there will still be a need to retain, if at all possible, the agreement between the major parties in the Bundestag on matters of security.

## ROAD SAFETY

# Beginners' licence planned in bid to cut motorcycle death toll

Every spring there is a fresh crop of young motorcyclists with no training on country roads. The longer and worse the winter was, the more they are raring to go.

No-one at a seminar in Sindelfingen, near Stuttgart, held by the Bonn Transport Ministry went so far as to call motorcyclists potential suicides, but the facts and figures speak for themselves.

The overall cost of all the deaths and injuries is estimated at over DM4bn a year, and that is only the material damage. It does not include ruined lives and families.

The Frankfurt hospital is one of nine of its kind in Germany and its statistics may be regarded as typical for the country as a whole.

Over a four-year period it treated 363 motorcyclists rushed in from the scene of traffic accidents. Nearly half (47.3 per cent, or 172) were crocked for life.

Twenty-eight are now paraplegics, or wheelchair-bound cripples. Eight have been paralysed in both arms and legs. They will need looking after for the rest of their lives.

They will find it incredibly difficult to learn and practise a trade, and in many cases they will never have families of their own.

There is also a significant increase in the number of fractured shins, which are typical of the trend toward heavier bikes.

As a general rule the bigger the bike the more serious the accident. The average patient spends 23 weeks in hospital, but it can take anything up to two and three quarter years for an open fracture of the shin to mend.

On average the hospital is paid DM35,500 for treatment, but the actual cost is far higher. A day in an intensive care ward costs DM2,500.

Yet nothing seems to deter bike-lovers. Many motorcyclists are lucky and get away with minor injuries. Others are taken to the mortuary.

## Farm policy

Continued from page 7

border in an effort to guarantee equal opportunity for the suppliers on markets of member states.

However, this currency differential between France and the Federal Republic has become an extremely sore point between the two countries, and the French Minister of Agriculture, Michel Rocard, believes that the system itself is a distortion of competition.

The levy must be cut by about five per cent. Even at the present compromise level of three per cent, the German farmers wouldn't see much left of the 10 per cent price increase.

Agriculture, cannot accept this. The matter is more difficult, Herr Rocard is also the head of the EEC Council until June. So there will have to be more bargaining, just like in an annual bazaar.

Things just don't change. All the bargaining and squabbling tends to the fact that reform is overdue.

Rainer Burchardt  
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 8 May 1983)



The trouble is that this (see picture below)...

(Photo: dpa)

saw the trend. But the growing number of two-wheelers continues to grow.

New registrations were up 70 per cent in 1981 over 1980, whereas new registrations of private cars were down four per cent.

There are currently 11 motorcycles per 1,000 head of population. If the trend continues unabated there will be 29 by the end of the decade.

Hamburg University sociologist Peter Schmidt has taken a closer look at the motorcyclist's mind, especially the younger and juvenile motorcyclists.

Biking nowadays is mainly a leisure pursuit; it used to be strictly a means of transport and as such was used mainly for getting to and from work.

Half the motorcyclists he dealt with were working-class in origin and often suffered from a lack of social recognition.

Biking, Schmidt says, is a well-nigh ideal way of working off steam for these youngsters.

So the motorcycle is, as far as they are concerned, mainly a means by which to offset social deficits and less a hobby or leisure activity.

If the age at which the moped kids join the two-wheeler ranks is borne in mind it will be realised that motorcyclists as a whole are a group suffering from errors, failures and disappointments.

Biking provides an opportunity of compensating for the upsets of everyday life. It is an adventure. It is also felt to be an ideal means of getting to know other people.

So the Hamburg sociologist concludes that the motorcycle is best described as an "instrument of status rivalry on the road between people of unequal social status."

Schmidt himself has ridden a motorcycle for 20 years and is a longstanding member of a Hamburg motorcycle club with which he regularly goes on outings.

"A large proportion of motorcyclists not only feel the need for self-assertion and compensation of social deficits," he says.

"They also feel that freedom on two wheels. No-one fore-

Continued on page 12

## Politics at first hand

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## HEALTH

## Profit motive + public interest = moves towards eliminating asbestos

It has been known for 50 years that asbestos fibre mined in Canada, South Africa and the Soviet Union is dangerous.

Yet that did not halt the triumphant progress of inexpensive and invaluable asbestos products all over the world.

Nothing happened until the 1970s in Germany. Then, action was prompted by a variety of causes and fears, including the emergence of a new environmental awareness.

It was combined with accident research findings indicating dozens of asbestos deaths and US statistics showing that workers using asbestos for insulation ran five to seven times the average risk of lung cancer.

Then the closure of 35 gymnasia all over Germany made headline news. They were all asbestos-insulated and said to be an asbestos dust health hazard.

It took all this before progress made headway and it was generally agreed that satisfactory substitutes and alternatives to asbestos had to be found.

They weren't found overnight. Even now, years later, the asbestos industry is still complaining that the entire issue was dealt with over-emotionally, irresponsibly and out of all proportion.

There is said to be a world of difference between varieties of asbestos. Manufacturers say the spraying process, which has been banned in the Federal

Republic of Germany since 1979, is much more dangerous than finished products made of asbestos cement.

Asbestos spraying is claimed to release much more asbestos in the form of fine dust that can affect the lungs, whereas finished products are little more of a health hazard than the occasional cigarette.

A note of sorrowful farewell was even sounded at a gathering called in Berlin by Eternit, the principal manufacturers of asbestos cement in Germany.

The organisers seemed sorry to wave goodbye to the grey mixture of asbestos fibre, cement and water that seems to be around just about everywhere.

It is used for roof tiles and window boxes, brake linings and drainpipes, and it isn't simply inexpensive: it's acidproof, fireproof, weatherproof and tensionproof.

There can be few materials that combine so many invaluable properties. Unfortunately it is also a health hazard.

Such occasions also present a convenient opportunity of saying how long ago (a decade or more) the company embarked on the quest for a substitute for asbestos fibre, so keenly was it aware of the health risk.

Yet board chairman Ernst Thöni frankly admitted that the growing scarcity and skyrocketing price of asbestos

on world markets had been the main reason for the quest in the first place.

The health debate undoubtedly accelerated the process, but the third and overriding factor that prompted the snail of progress to get a move on was an even more telling one.

In Karl Marx's anniversary year ideologists might well be tempted to claim a victory for the working classes in their struggle against capitalism.

The fact is simply that people stopped buying asbestos. In 1981 the asbestos industry was plunged into its most serious crisis since the war.

The recession was bad enough. Coupled with a virtual consumer boycott it forced manufacturers to lay off a third of their work force.

"People simply insisted on asbestos-free products," Herr Thöni said. The market had its say, and the resulting struggle for survival meant overtime for research and development divisions.

That will have been the reason why the industry, after a few initial clashes and months of talks, came to terms with Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum and agreed last year on an innovation programme.

They did so at a time when asbestos products were already subject to controls or banned in Scandinavia.

The Bonn government recently published an interim report on progress in the first year of the programme, and it makes remarkable reading.

This year the fibre count in the overall output of the asbestos cement industry will be cut by 15 per cent (out of a target total of 50 per cent over a five-year period).

Eighty to 90 per cent of output will consist of finished and prefabricated parts needing no further processing, with accompanying health hazards, on the construction site.

Low-dust processing equipment is being manufactured and 70,000 units have already been sold. Asbestos products are to be marked with a warning symbol and no longer sold at do-it-yourself shops.

Even the Environmental Protection Agency, which for years warned against asbestos and welcomed every headline

there was, admits the progress is excellent.

A spokesman for the Federal Agency in Berlin even said it set a "very positive" example, as the EPA pointed out, it had to do so.

Manufacturers feel bound themselves on the back and the asbestos dust health hazard must surely have been reduced tenfold.

But less than one asbestos producer has so far been satisfied. Most people find it extremely difficult to conceptualise death in any way. Motor manufacturers, for instance, are most reluctant to convert to free brake and clutch linings.

Saab have done so. So have Renault in the Passat and Santana. Yet the materials used in place of asbestos have a much longer life in the car.

The EPA remains convinced five years at the latest all manufacturers will have snuffed the change.

### Pressures mount

They will arguably be forced by the environmental conscience of the man in the street, aided by the Environmental Protection Agency, both of which are now pressing for asbestos being banned.

The new Bonn government predecessor, calls for asbestos to be eliminated. It will not be satisfied until the health risk is reduced to a minimum.

But it will still take time. Research and the quest for substitutes anywhere near as useful as asbestos are not getting under way until the end of the century.

It is hard going. Eternit says it will need 10, and a further 10, to produce a million tons a year.

Other chemicals manufacturers joined the fray, realising that they are developing a market for fibre suitable as a replacement for asbestos they will have a market of a million tons a year.

One million tons of asbestos is roughly half as much again as the current world output, so the question of industrial profit motive and public interest in environmental protection and health can confidently be expected to produce results.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 12 May 1983)

## Accident research helps cut industrial injuries

Accident research is claimed to have played a leading role in reducing the annual toll of industrial injuries from 2.7 million in 1970 to 1.8 million last year.

Research findings were instrumental in pinpointing causes to be eliminated, Wolfram Jetter said at the Hannover Fair. He is acting head of the Labour Protection and Accident Research Establishment in Dortmund.

The number of deaths in accidents at work declined from 6,500 to about 3,500 during the period under review.

Better security precautions and advances in humanisation of working conditions have thus effectively reduced the economic cost of industrial injuries.

Herr Jetter said their overall cost to the economy totalled between DM30bn and DM35bn a year.

Accident research specialists emphasised has changed in the injuries reported. "Clean" jobs led to the emergence of fresh symptoms.

At Hannover the Dortmund unit exhibited new designs for working standing up, for working indoors and for working as a supervisor.

Designers can use an illustration of the motions workers go through technically as a motograph. It can assist them in devising ideal conditions.

The entire process also enables researchers to check the choice of media: paintings and new ideas have the desired effect, make work safer and more human.

(Münchener Morgen, 12 May 1983)

## EXHIBITIONS

## Death without frills, just cold, final and dead

The current exhibition at Hamburg's Kunstverein, entitled *Todesbilder*, is in its way a work of art in its own right.

Most people find it extremely difficult to conceptualise death in any way. Motor manufacturers, for instance, are most reluctant to convert to free brake and clutch linings.

Instead of equating death and dying with concepts such as destiny, fate and fate they have merely assembled most credible depictions of death could find and dispensed with any intellectualisation.

The result is impressive, and not least a testament of this deliberate decision.

Edward Munch's view of the end of a metabolic process is given the weight as Ferdinand Hodler's statement over the slow death of the man he loved, Valentine Godé.

In drawing her, Hodler daily sought to understand anew the meaning of death.

Arnulf Rainer's view of life as an anticipation of death is seen as no less than Alfred Hrdlicka's repeated attempt to discover in death a last draught of life.

Rudolf Schwarzkogler's effective criminalisation of the might of modern intensive medical care (the artist himself is depicted amid tubes, drips, wires and bandages) is seen as equal in importance to any other work of art.

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(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 12 May 1983)

Yet somehow Gercken and Schneedo have succeeded in scrupulously avoiding the shelter afforded by art history or conclusive arguments of any other kind.

Death, their exhibition shows, is first and foremost a very personal affair for the artist.

All that can be said is that it is no longer as shrouded in secrecy as it once was and thus no longer as easy to symbolise as it was in Munch's days.

Munch used symbols such as Adam and Eve and the Tree of Knowledge against a background of skulls from which young plants grew.

Instead, they now experience it in an even more elementary and direct manner. The forms and strategies of transmission are arguably more subtle; that is all.

Most of the 12 artists were so stricken by the death of a loved one or someone they greatly admired that they dealt with the subject several times.

They were compassionate (Hodler), fascinated (Hrdlicka) or repelled (Beuys), pursued by beautiful fantasies (Günther Brus) or exact recollections

(Jochen Gerz) and either tried again and again (Arnulf Rainer) or worked serially (Helmut Gruber). It virtually goes without saying that the exhibition also features many examples of accomplished craftsmanship. The categories of craftsmanship and aestheticism in which the artist work are mainly familiar. Besides, categories are problematic in view of the subject. All experience is personal at the moment of death and artistic freedom of expression requires protection of the artist's feelings at such moments. He is entitled to protection, from attribution and assessment, which are bound at moments such as these to be wrong. Anyone who wants to gain anything from the Hamburg exhibition must set aside at least for a few moments any idea of committing himself.



Arnulf Rainer's 'Death mask', 1978, in the 'Todesbilder' exhibition. (Photo: Kunstverein in Hamburg)

He would do better to dispense with words. Jürgen Schmidt (Stuttgarter Zeitung, 3 May 1983)

## Masquerade of mankind, the secrets behind the mask

It may initially come as a surprise to find as part of this year's Ruhr Festival an exhibition on the subject of masks at Recklinghausen Kunsthalle.

The festival keynote is the 50th anniversary of the Nazi take-over in 1933 and the uses and abuses of power. Are masks not just fun and games?

We all play a part in daily life and inevitably wear a mask in order to hold our own, and a false face is invariably worn in the pursuit of power.

The mask does not only eliminate class distinctions, as in the Venetian carnival; it is also well suited to denoting the position of the person in power.

The Recklinghausen exhibition is entitled 'Who Shows His True Face?' and that means us all.



This masked head was made out of bronze by Reiner Krieser. It is among the exhibits at Recklinghausen's Kunsthalle. (Photo: Catalogue)

One of the best-known and most striking instances of masquerading by people in power is the ceremonial garb worn by chiefs and medicine men.

In the rites of such natural beliefs the mask symbolises the power over people and destinies given by gods and spirits. Similar outward symbols of the claim to power by proxy are to be found in the finery of habits worn by the priests of our major religions. They can also be seen in the pompous and intentionally impressive uniforms worn by some military men.

The exhibition does not set out to be a cultural history of masks. Its aim is to show that Goya's adage "The world is a masquerade" still holds good. But it does not share the painter's pessimistic view of

the world. Goya went on to say that "everything is feigned, everyone is a deceiver, and no-one knows himself."

At the Ruhr Festival the mask must also be taken as a reflection on the festival's own sense and purpose: the masquerade as a mirror held out to the audience by actors on stage.

Examples taken from the stage are as carefully chosen as exhibits from the life of primitive peoples. They range from Japanese No masks to lion and fish facial masks worn in a 1977 production of Faust II.

The austerity of metal stage masks designed in the late-1920s under the influence of the Bauhaus school is particularly impressive.

Mask is also taken to mean the child-like pleasure in dressing up for a part, just as the carnival in all its aspects is a major aspect.

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 4 May 1983)

## Meteorological stations all over the world



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4/11/83



## ■ THE THIRD WORLD

## Berlin centre provides training for television journalists, technicians

There are more than a hundred million television sets in the Third World. Transmitters are being built twice as fast as was once expected.

As a result, demand for trained staff is rising, and much of this demand is met by courses for journalist and technicians run in Berlin by *Sender Freies Berlin*.

In the whole of the Third World, there are now only about two dozen television channels without Berlin-trained staff.

About 1,300 have taken part in these TTC (Television Training Center) courses since 1970. Originally the courses were basic and given over a long term. Now they are for just three months and are for those who have already had practical experience.

Bonn provides DM3m a year. Training facilities cost DM10m. There are seven instructors and many sound technicians, cameramen and other technicians on hand.

The popularity of the course makes it clear that television is the number one medium in the Third World. Those who show their worth in newspaper or radio journalism have a good chance of going on to television.

Some of the Berlin trainees have already attended courses held by *Deutsche Welle*, the short-wave Voice of Germany, in Cologne.

So some of the students in Berlin feel as if they are something special. They expect to be treated with a certain degree of respect.

If they think there is any condescension at their hotel it is recorded by the course spokesman. One example: "At times I found that the hotel staff were impolite towards course participants. They seemed to look down on the students — I don't know why. I hope this will change in future."

The technical courses are broken down into two: one for transmitter technicians and the other colour TV technicians. There are four journalism courses: news, magazine, documentary and trick effects.

The students spend five or six weeks at the centre (they often bring examples of work from their own channel as a starting point) and then see the theory in action. The engineers visit transmission centres and equipment makers and the journalists visit TV production departments.

They go to Munich, Mainz, Bonn,

Cologne and Düsseldorf. Sometimes it seems as if it all can become too much and a kind of homesickness emerges. There was, as an example, a request during a documentary course, to spend a few days on a small farm.

Trainees produce their own film, during the last weeks.

Course selection has its problems. Some applicants are over-qualified, which would upset the balance of a class. Insistence of some Third World channels on sending their own teaching staff doesn't help.

The Berlin training staff also visits a Third World country each year. They set up workshops and draw up training programmes. Many countries including Indonesia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka train staff according to Berlin's programme.

Berlin's motive is not ideology or cultural influence, unlike similar centres in France, Britain and America, where there is greater emphasis on pushing national images.

The only concern in Berlin is to enable trainees to present TV programmes professionally. The content is for the trainees' own country to determine.

This is where there is a difference to another training centre on the other side of the Berlin Wall, the *Werner Lamberz Institut*, East Berlin.

West Berliners are convinced that it's much better if ideology is kept out.

*Ernst-Otto Maetzig*  
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung  
für Deutschland, 26 April 1983)

## Williamsburg

Continued from page 8  
Weber could well serve as a *leitmotiv* for the series of summits.

The first meeting of the big six in Puerto Rico turned into a round of seven in 1976, after the Canadian Prime Minister also joined the summit.

One year later, in London, the President of the EEC Commission was also present and has also become a permanent member.

This line-up may have stayed the same, but the results of the various summits have changed over the years. Puerto Rico saw agreement on monetary support for Italy, London a declaration of war on inflation.

The Bonn summit in July 1978, the host country really got down to business by promising to help improve international economic situation by reducing taxation and increasing spending to a level which would exceed DM12 billion (the cost of "up to one per cent of the national product").

The self-appointed role of the Republic of Germany as a force for growth was certainly not enough. Increased borrowing restrictions for political action in the which followed.

The 1981 summit in Ottawa saw an increase in interest rates was in the spotlight.

Many looked towards the USA emphasising: "The interest rates in many countries have reached levels and if they remain at that they will present a serious threat to productive investments."

This problems may have been severe but it still exists. The West German Minister of Finance, Gerhard Stoltenberg, recently called to the reduction of the high rates, particularly in the USA, as the key aspects of the coming summit in Williamsburg.

Other central issues will be the budgetary deficits, the fight against unemployment and the huge amount of debt towering over Third World countries, which now figure at \$600 billion.

*Eberhard Hoffmeyer*  
(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 19 April 1983)

## Motorcycle EDUCATION

Continued from page 1  
wheels' and the social atmosphere which they aspire inside and out. Motorcycling fraternity depends on size, power, speed and price of the bike."

Motorcycling correspondents at a defining seminar did not get their way to dispute this claim. At a moment did they dispute the fact that manufacturers and the happy to go along with this belief. In many cases, their academic training does not correspond to job needs.

Motorcyclists were thus seen as a group of road-users who pose the most serious danger of being maimed, yet at the same time people who were not readily open to rational arguments.

They might not be indifferent to safety but they did not attach importance to it. So the authorities thinking in terms of mandatory measures to reduce the accident rate.

The Road Safety Commission, Hohenheim Commission have been instrumental in deciding that a port Minister Werner Dollinger should introduce a graduated driving licence for motorcycles next year.

Details were outlined at the Ministry's Hans-Jürgen, who said beginners would not be allowed to ride a big bike until they had experience on a smaller one. There are also plans to improve standards among both driving schools and instructors.

Few people realise that riding a motorcycle is much more difficult than learning to drive a car. "All we know about riding a motorcycle," Herr Redliger said, "is an extremely risky business."

*Adolf*  
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 19 April 1983)

## Full-speed inertia grips attempts to reform the university system

Even the most promising attempt to alter the system by dividing study courses into those which are more practically oriented and those which are more academically oriented (in line with the American model of "undergraduate" and "graduate" studies) failed miserably.

In 1978 suggestions for such "short study courses" were presented by the Science and Education Council.

Yet they were met by rejection right down the line. They were regarded as unacceptable by educational experts who saw the danger that most students would have to complete their studies in a very short time to enable academic privileges for the chosen few.

Industry did not take up the suggestions even though such demands were similar to its own.

The project was finally buried after coming up against the barrier facing all educational initiatives: the pay and employment guidelines for civil servants, which does not allow something which is different in content yet of equal value to be rewarded in the same way.

The "struggle" for higher educational reforms has turned into a kind of Ger-

man drama, with a pretty good cast but a weak plot.

This is a case of pragmatism failing in the face of academic tradition. Of course, this does not apply to all subjects.

In many disciplines there have been partial reforms on a regional level or in smaller universities.

However, these have been more of a "by-product" rather than an immediate result of higher education policies on a more general level.

Such general education policy has become bogged down between civil service law and industrial law, between the fears of overcrowding and reforms.

Is there a real chance of overcoming the paralysis in higher education reforms? Or to put it another way: how realistic are Turner's suggestions today?

To cut down the number of years at school would hardly seem a realistic way out, since this would only load an additional amount of pupils on to the universities and lead to greater unemployment among teachers.

Cutting down the length of study courses, providing that is that a reasonable concept exists, would aggravate the unemployment situation.



George Turner  
(Photo: Jörg-Peter Maucher)

What is more, it looks as if many universities are not interested in reducing the number of their students when they consider that the average number of pupils is decreasing.

A premature reduction would endanger their own future.

As regards these universities; therefore, Turner is already preaching to deaf ears.

The German drama of higher education reform stays on the bill.

*Malte Buschbeck*  
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 May 1983)

## Germany's first private campus opens with 26 students

The first 26 students have taken their places at Germany's first private university, at Witten/Herdecke, in the Ruhr.

All are medical students, but there will eventually be 3,000 places in departments of philosophy, biology, chemistry, mathematics and probably law, engineering and economics.

It took ten years of planning and 24 months of tug-of-war with the SPD-run government of North-Rhine Westphalia before the final go-ahead was given.

It looks as if the struggle is over. The North-Rhine Westphalian Minister for Science and Education, Hans Schwier, attended the opening ceremony and praised the significance of this institution.

Germany's first private university is

not backed by public funds and will be financed by donation contributions.

The first 26 students began their medical studies this month.

They were chosen from a total of 1,300 applicants without the involvement of the central admissions council.

The marks for the school-leaving certificate were not that important for the final selection.

Those responsible for making the choice were more interested in the willingness of applicants to work hard and their sense of social commitment.

The medical course is a comprehensive one. All students must complete all-round general studies as part of their qualification. This consists of psychology, philosophy and other social sciences.

During the opening ceremony, the Chairman of the University Association,

Dr Konrad Schily, of Herdecke, pointed out that "this is just the beginning of a long journey for our country."

There have been many long discussions on the pros and cons of a private university.

The initiators of the project, who aim to create a kind of elite, certainly caused a great deal of suspicion among politicians involved in education, who feared that the foundation character of the private university would give the donors too much influence on university affairs.

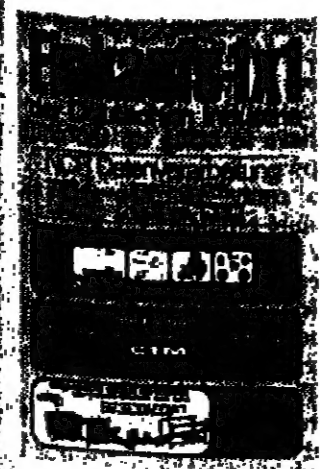
Herr Schwier warned those responsible to be wary of such a development. The Federation of German Trade Unions, the DGB, had even expressed fears of the business world creating its own independent field of higher education.

And yet, the union's own bank, the Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft, provided a surety of DM17m for the foundation of the university.

The new institution will now have to stand up to the test.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 2 May 1983)

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## ■ BEHAVIOUR

# Truth revealed at last: why nice children turn into horrible adults

Until recently, the reason for neurotic personality structures was thought to lie in the individual's childhood experiences.

This basic cause-effect relationship is being questioned more and more by experts in psychology.

They believe that the function a person assumes within the family or a similar group and the roles conferred are of equal importance for the development of an individual's personality.

As confirmed by this year's Psychotherapy Week in Lindau, the classic question of why this person behaves in this way and not in some other way, has been replaced by the question of why he behaves like this.

This does not belittle the significance of past experience but underlines that the knowledge of such experience is not important, perhaps not even essential, for understanding the changes in the realities of human interaction.

The present function of psychological phenomena within the individual's frame work of relationships is of greater importance in this respect.

This is where therapeutic measures can help most.

The "equity theory," for example, is based on the central assumption that humans wish to live within the context of balanced relations.

"Balanced" is seen to mean the quan-

titative nature of characteristics, abilities and competences which a person can offer his/her partner.

Many people suffer under unbalanced relationships and often leave their partner if a change cannot be achieved.

Of course, the success of such a change also depends a great deal on the partner.

Professor K. König from Tiefenbrunn spoke on the primary criteria for partner selection.

If all other factors are similar, the partner chosen is usually of a similar attractiveness.

If the external attractiveness varies there are very often other compensatory factors.

A man, for example, who is much older than his partner may well find social status, experience in life or kindness compensating for his age.

The desire not only to be loved by one's partner but also admired can become a determinant factor in choice.

Very often the person who suffers most from an unbalanced relationship is not the one who receives less but who can offer less.

For example, a woman who may well have greatly admired her husband when they decided to marry may not acknowledge his occupational successes later on.

They may decide to split up, not because the husband no longer needs the admiration from his wife but because

she now demands something from him which he cannot give, for example more time.

His wife is no longer interested or satisfied with what he can offer, for example social prestige.

König explained how the choice of a partner is guided by traces of past memories which are associated with interaction with members of one's own family.

In many cases, these memories relate to the actual parents, yet in some cases there is a mental picture of ideal parents who compensate for the shortcomings of real parents.

All aspects which were important during contacts with such central persons — not necessarily with the real parents — are stored in a person's memory together with feeling of acceptance and sympathy or dislike and contradiction.

Professor E. Sperling pointed out that the relationship to grandparents are just as important as the child-parent relationship when it comes to family therapy.

In many cases, the person asks himself: why am I like I am? I could quite easily have turned out completely differently. The evaluation of family histories has shown that this is not the case.

Family therapy has revealed that the family must be viewed as a whole, including the grandparents.

The previously accepted principle of linear causality is thus replaced by the more circular cybernetic principle of interaction.

Such systems' theory-oriented approaches and the resultant paradox intervention strategies have been remarkably successful.

The tendency to become depressed, to contemplate suicide or to suffer from anorexia nervosa are very often "kept in the family" for generations.

The main aspect here is not the actual illness but the ideology handed down within the family.

Sperling is convinced that pathological anorexia, for example, is not part of an ascetic ideal which suddenly emerges and then disappears just as quickly.

Just like the formation of other ideas and life-styles, such ideas have a long family tradition and are also influenced by the immediate social environment.

However, if an easily vulnerable person requires too much of such ideal things can become dangerous.

Children are then in many cases the receiving end of the self-solved conflicts are passed on.

The partners themselves are often the victims of their own family patterns.

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Talks with grandparents affirmed this assumption. I believe why members of a family side even though they may have different attitudes towards aspects of life.

The interaction between parents and their grandchildren loaded with controversial aspects of life, for example, on the length of one's hair or sexual life.

This can lead to considerable differences of opinion and the parents' attitudes.

The older generation also has its own problems.

Problems are often brought to the fore by the excuse "we don't want to be grand-dad".

This creates substantial problems of unreality between generations which should be dealt with using multi-generation therapy.

The illness can then be seen as a symptom of the past, present and future.

Sperling confirmed that the matter what age, do their attitudes up to the expectations of the future and to help them in all of these.

This starts with the three child giving its father its name so that he gets over an illegitimate right through to the slogs away at his studies to be something better" in life, some father always wanted to become a family loyalty is a very factor and psychotherapeutic often comes up against a "patient" finds himself in a involving loyalty to his family.

The patient's resistance can lead to the failure of such therapy.

Professor J. G. Lemmle declined that such resistance is backed by the family itself, but if therapy threatens to disturb relationships within the family.

This particularly applies to whose togetherness is not a result of erotic desires but of needs.

The narcissistic help given by one's partner consists of accepting the partner's weakness.

The love-bond between two acts as a protecting shield for the dual, as does the framework of the family.

However, if an easily vulnerable person requires too much of such ideal things can become dangerous.

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## MODERN LIVING

# Four survive in open boat after yacht sunk by gunfire, but questions linger

Members of a team of German radio amateurs killed when their yacht was gunned off the coast of a remote island in the South China Sea. Four survived 10 days in a dinghy before being rescued. But all sorts of questions remain concerning the role of Balder Drobica, 48, one of the survivors. He is employee of the Verfassungsschutz, a counter-espionage agency. Is it coincidental?

I must first have drunk about litres of water," said Balder Drobica, one of the four survivors of the 48-hour ordeal to Volker Bock, a Singapore-registered yacht.

Drobica and his companions were rescued by the container freighter us right through to the slogs away at his studies to be something better" in life, some father always wanted to become a family loyalty is a very factor and psychotherapeutic often comes up against a "patient" finds himself in a involving loyalty to his family.

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salt water and Peter Marx a chest wound from the shooting.

Drobica explained what happened when the yacht's Mayday call ("We are under fire" and "The ship is on fire") were heard by radio hams all over the world.

The *Siddhartha* had sailed to within about a mile of the island where the Cologne amateur radio enthusiasts planned to land heavy equipment and transmit to others all over the world for five days.

They were authorised to land by the Malaysian government, but ownership of the Spratly Islands is disputed, it is claimed by China, Vietnam, Taiwan and others.

As the crew scanned the coastline guns opened fire. The yacht's polyester hull is said to have been riddled by machine-gun fire and direct hits scored by 50mm shells.

The tanks containing fuel that was to have powered generators for the transmitter caught fire.

The hull was felt to be practically unsinkable, incorporating extra plastic floats, but it sank within minutes, partly due to the heavy load of radio equipment. The crew just had time to transmit distress signals before abandoning ship and hopping into the dinghy. Firing continued and Müller was killed and Marx injured.

Firing continued even after they had abandoned ship. Had it not been for the heavy swell the dinghy too might well have been hit and sunk.

The ordeal then began. In a telephone interview with Radio Luxembourg just after they were picked up Marx described the struggle for survival:

"The ship was lost in a matter of minutes. We had nothing left. There were very few options. Either we put up a struggle or we died. We decided to try and last the distance.

"Every morning we wished we had coffee for breakfast. Every evening at sundown we hoped to be alive to see sunrise the next day."

While the dinghy appears to have been sent west by strong winds against the current, feverish activity began in a

bid to find the yacht or what remained of it.

Volker Bock flew to Singapore to hire an aircraft and scour the seas for it. The Bonn Foreign Office reached agreement with neighbouring countries for the Spratly Islands to be flown over during the search.

But there were no traces, so Bock suspected the yacht had been captured and sailed away. He only learnt from Drobica that the *Siddhartha* had sunk almost immediately.

Confusion was created by bogus Mayday calls reported during the search. A Malaysian ham even went so far as to claim that a Soviet nuclear submarine had taken four survivors and two corpses on board.

Hopes of finding survivors declined daily. Bock eventually flew home convinced the missing crew were being held by the Vietnamese and determined to trace their whereabouts with the help of the Foreign Office.

He had barely arrived home when the news came through that allowed four

members of a team of German radio amateurs killed when their yacht was gunned off the coast of a remote island in the South China Sea. Four survived 10 days in a dinghy before being rescued. But all sorts of questions remain concerning the role of Balder Drobica, 48, one of the survivors. He is employee of the Verfassungsschutz, a counter-espionage agency. Is it coincidental?

I must first have drunk about litres of water," said Balder Drobica, one of the four survivors of the 48-hour ordeal to Volker Bock, a Singapore-registered yacht.

Drobica and his companions were rescued by the container freighter us right through to the slogs away at his studies to be something better" in life, some father always wanted to become a family loyalty is a very factor and psychotherapeutic often comes up against a "patient" finds himself in a involving loyalty to his family.

The patient's resistance can lead to the failure of such therapy.

Professor J. G. Lemmle declined that such resistance is backed by the family itself, but if therapy threatens to disturb relationships within the family.

This particularly applies to whose togetherness is not a result of erotic desires but of needs.

The narcissistic help given by one's partner consists of accepting the partner's weakness.

The love-bond between two acts as a protecting shield for the dual, as does the framework of the family.

However, if an easily vulnerable person requires too much of such ideal things can become dangerous.

Children are then in many cases the receiving end of the self-solved conflicts are passed on.

The partners themselves are often the victims of their own family patterns.

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families to breathe sighs of relief and confirmed the other two's worst suspicions. The families of the survivors were promptly requested to remit DM3,000 immediately to the German embassy in Hong Kong to pay for their relatives' flights home.

It took action by Bonn Bundestag MPs to persuade the embassy to make the initial outlay and buy the tickets. Volker Bock flew to Hong Kong to greet the survivors.

Why travel to the ends of the earth with radio equipment in this way? Amateur radio enthusiasts, of whom there are about 300 in the Cologne area, see it as a sporting challenge.

They collect QSL cards confirming reception of transmissions like valuable postage stamps. The cards state time, frequency, contents and quality of transmissions.

Once you have 100 confirmations of your own from foreign countries, you are awarded a diploma by the American Radio Relay League.

League leaders have up to 325 confirmations.

So the *Siddhartha* and its mission would have helped radio hams all over the world who had never picked up transmissions from the Spratly Islands.

The last mission of this kind was in 1979 when Americans landed on the islands and set up a transmitter.

Malte Witter (Köln: Siebt-Anzeiger, 21 April 1983)

# Our man just on private holiday, says counter intelligence

Questions are hanging over the expedition by radio hams to the South China Sea in which two people died and four other members of the crew were rescued after 10 days without food or water.

Speculation has been prompted for one by the fact that one of the survivors works for the Verfassungsschutz the Cologne-based counter-espionage agency.

The Bonn government agency says it is a mistake and absurd to suggest that the radio expedition in which its 48-year-old employee Balder Drobica had taken part was in any way connected with his work.

The Verfassungsschutz is responsible for domestic intelligence activities and is not authorised to work abroad but, a spokesman added, Herr Drobica would be asked in person to answer detailed questions.

Intelligence work abroad is handled by the Bundesnachrichtendienst in Pöhl, Munich, where a spokesman said that as a matter of principle no comment was made on operations regardless whether allegations were true or false.

In a TV interview the shipwrecked mariner said he had visions just after batteries opened fire on the yacht *Siddhartha* of the crew not being rescued from the ship's dinghy until the 10th day of their Odyssey.

The spokesman for the Verfassungsschutz said, Herr Drobica was a keen radio ham and his strictly private holiday had been notified and given the go-ahead beforehand by his employer.

There was a ban on employees taking holidays in Communist countries, but no-one was expecting Herr Drobica to run into Vietnamese troops and it had not been felt necessary (nor had it been possible) to veto his holiday plans.

The *Siddhartha* sailed from Singapore to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, a group claimed by several countries.

Three men and a woman survived for 10 days without water in the heat of the sea. This alone is a fact for which it is hard to account.

Another point that defies explanation is how the dinghy was driven 200 miles south-west, and off-course in relation to the prevailing wind and current, to the busy Singapore-Hong Kong shipping lane.

An immediate answer to these intriguing queries has been made more difficult now an illustrated magazine has clinched an exclusive contract to publish the story of what happened on board the yacht.

dpa (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 April 1983)

Safe on dry land again: Jenny Toh Swee-hoo (left) and her husband Peter Marx (in background) and at right, Balder Drobica, after their rescue in the South China Sea. Their story is that they were on an innocent radio ham holiday when their yacht was shot out of the water. (Photos: AP)

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